

Serial No.: 09/943,625

- 14 -

Art Unit: 2881

REMARKS

Claims 1-72 remain present in this application. The thorough examination given to the present application, the allowance of claims 1, 5-8, 11-14, 17-22, 25-33, 35-37 and 68-71 and the indication of allowable subject matter in dependent claims 2-4, 9, 10, 15, 16, 23, 24, 34, 38-67 and 72 are greatly appreciated by Applicants. Clarifying amendments have been made to claims 2, 9, 10, 15, 16, 23, 34, 38-40, 49, 53-58 and 72 to address the concerns raised in the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and to place these claims in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of the claims in the present application as amended are earnestly solicited in view of the following remarks.

Claims 2-4, 9, 10, 15, 16, 23, 24, 34, 38-67 and 72 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 2, 9, 10, 15, 16, 23, 34, 38-40, 49, 53-58 and 72 have been amended to address the concerns raised in this rejection. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-4, 9, 10, 15, 16, 23, 34, 38-67 and 72 are in compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and it is respectfully requested that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

In view of these amendments and for all of the above stated reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the outstanding objections and rejections in the present application have been overcome. Therefore, it is requested that claims 2-4, 9, 10, 15, 16, 23, 24, 34, 38-67 and 72 of the present application be passed to issue along with allowed claims 1, 5-8, 11-14, 17-22, 25-33, 35-37 and 68-71.

If any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney. Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments to deposit account No. 50-0896.

Respectfully submitted,
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Docket No. VSEA 29-99

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